



The Nativity Awards

We need you to nominate a person or a group for the 2014 Nativity Awards! The categories are below. Please talk about someone that you know (or know of) that exhibits the traits shown by one of the characters (or objects) in the story of the Christmas Journey. Additional Information to help with your decision can be found on the back of this sheet.

Tell us which Award you would like to nominate them for and why you think they deserve it!! Winners will be featured in upcoming E-Thoughts!

<p>AWARD: Mary's Courage</p> <p>Mary courageously said YES to God even when doing God's will was going to be very difficult for her in many ways. What person or group acts with courage in the same way today?</p>	<p>AWARD: Elizabeth's Hope</p> <p>Elizabeth gave hope to Mary as she faced the difficult task of becoming the mother of our Lord. What person or group provides hope to others in our world today?</p>
<p>AWARD: Joseph's Bravery</p> <p>Joseph bravely said YES to God even when others did not understand the decision that he made. What person or group do you know of that stands their ground no matter what others might think?</p>	<p>AWARD: Humble Manger</p> <p>Our Lord entered the world and began his life on earth in a feeding trough. What person or group do you know that doesn't let self-importance get in the way of doing God's will?</p>
<p>AWARD: Good Shepherd</p> <p>The Shepherds left their sheep, their jobs, their livelihood in order to be with Jesus. What person or group do you know that leaves everything behind to be with Jesus or to do God's will?</p>	<p>AWARD: Magi's News</p> <p>The wise men were willing to travel great distances and risk danger in order to spread the good news of the birth of Jesus. What person or group do you know that spreads the Good News of our Lord through word or action?</p>

I/We nominate _____,

For the _____ Award

Because _____

(If you have extra time, try to come up with some award nominations for the other categories!)



Inspiration from the Christmas Journey



Mary was brave. She said YES to God even when she knew that it was going to be difficult. But still she said YES!

That took courage. Mary's courage can be an inspiration to us. When things are hard and we are trying to make difficult decisions. We can remember that Mary said YES, even though it was hard.



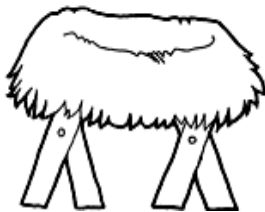
Elizabeth called Mary the "mother of my Lord" These words allow Mary to stay strong in her faith and to know that she was not alone in doing God's will.

God does the same for us. He provides us with family and friends to give us comfort and hope when we need it. The people that we love can help us remember that when we do our best to do what God asks of us, we are not alone.



Joseph said yes to God. He took Mary as his wife and became the step-father of Jesus.

Like Joseph, we sometimes make choices based on what other people might think. When we make choices that we know are right no matter what other people think, we are doing what Joseph did. We are saying YES to God, even if others do not seem to understand.



A manger is a feeding trough. Think of it as a dog bowl for farm animals. Baby Jesus used a feeding trough as his bed. When we look to this moment, we are reminded that despite God's great glory and power, He chose to become one of us. He chose to humble Himself, to become human, to become man.

The king of kings slept in a manger. What a great reminder for us not to get caught up in our own self-importance. We can look to this miraculous event to remind us to be ready to do whatever God asks of us. To say YES to God's will in our life, even if it is not happening as we think it should. Even if we think it's beneath us.



The Shepherds were willing to abandon their jobs, their possessions, and their livelihood to seek out this Christ Child. The baby Jesus.

Are we willing to do the same? To choose the way to Jesus, no matter what that requires.



These foreign visitors, the wise men, were willing to travel great distances and to risk danger in order to spread the good news of the birth of Jesus.

Let their willingness inspire us to do the same: to spread the good news that Jesus came to walk among us and He still does today. Like the Magi, we can make it our own mission to spread the Good News to those we meet, near and far. Through our words, and through our actions.